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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0620
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
USIA WASHDC
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CG FMFPAC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
USDAO SAIGON
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
CDRUSSAG NKP THAILAND
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
SUBJECT: VIET-NAM WEEKLY CEASEFIRE ASSESSMENT
NOVEMBER 20-26, 1974

PART I -- SUMMARY

A. THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY THIS WEEK TOOK A TURN DOWNWARD. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS COUNTRYWIDE WAS SOME 12.5 PERCENT LOWER. THE RVNAF KIA LEVEL WAS DOWN ALMOST 17 PERCENT, WHILE COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS A WEEK AGO. BAD WEATHER IN MR-1 WAS AGAIN A LIMITING FACTOR ON BOTH AIR AND GROUND OPERATIONS. A RECENT FOCUS OF VC/NVA ACTIVITY THERE HAS BEEN SAPPER ATTACKS ON BRIDGES AND CULVERTS, WITH THE MAJORITY SUCCESSFUL. VC/NVA SAPPERS WERE ALSO OPERATING IN MR-2, WHERE THEY DESTROYED FIVE ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION TOWERS IN NINH THUAN, BUT WERE THWARTED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO BLOW A BRIDGE IN BINH THUAN. ALTHOUGH COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED TO BE ACTIVE IN BINH DINH, THEY DID NOT ACHIEVE ANY SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS. THE BIG NEWS IN MR-3 WAS GVN RECOVERY OF RACH BAP, WHICH COMPLETED THE RECAPTURE OF ALL TERRITORY LOST IN THE IRON TRIANGLE AREA IN THE COMMUNIST SUMMER AUTUMN OFFENSIVE. OTHERWISE THE INCIDENTS WERE FAIRLY MINOR, BUT THE INCIDENCE OF SAPPER ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE REGION CONTINUED. AS THE END OF THE MONTH APPROACHES, THE USUAL DECLINE OF ACTIVITY WAS AGAIN EXPERIENCED IN THE DELTA. GVN FORCES RECOVERED SOME OF THE SMALL OUTPOSTS LOST OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS. THE GVN EXPECTS THAT THE BATTLE IN MR-4 DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL BE LINKED TO THE COMING RICE HARVEST.

B. THE ACTIVITY LEVEL IN MR-1 RANGED BETWEEN MODERATE AND QUIESCENT. THROUGHOUT THE AREA THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES DURING THE WEEK, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF WHICH OCCURRED IN QUANG NAM NOVEMBER 24, WHERE A PASSENGER BUS WAS BLOWN UP KILLING FOUR CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING 31 OTHERS -- INCLUDING FOUR SOLDIERS. THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS FROM THE LOCAL ICCS TEAM SITE INTERVIEWED SURVIVORS IN THE HOSPITAL. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN
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PASS FIGHTING CONTINUED IN THE AREA OF LA SON BASE AND MO TAU AND BONG MOUNTAINS, BUT AT A LESS INTENSE LEVEL. VC/NVA ACTIVITY SOUTH OF THE PASS, IN QUANG NAM, WAS AT A LOW LEVEL FOLLOWING FAILURE OF THE COMMUNISTS TO DEFEAT ARVN AIRBORNE UNITS ON HILLS 52 AND 1062.

C. THE ARVN 41ST REGIMENT IN BINH DINH WAS AGAIN SUBJECTED TO COMMUNIST PRESSURE WEST OF BONG SON AND ALONG Q.L. 19. THIS ARVN UNIT, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO HOLD ITS POSITION COMMANDING THE AN LAO VALLEY. SECTOR FORCES IN TUYEN DUC PROVINCE CONDUCTED ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OPERATION AGAINST THE VC WEST OF ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN. IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS MINIMAL. IN THE FORMER ARVN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT RESPITE TO REDEPLOY FORCES TO GIVE THE RANGERS RESPONSIBILITY FOR

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DEFENSE OF KONTUM CITY.

D. CONTACTS WERE ESSENTIALLY MINOR IN MR-3, WITH VIRTUALLY NO CONTACT WITH NVA MAIN FORCE UNITS. A PICKUP IN NVA OFFENSIVE ACTION IS EXPECTED IN DECEMBER, AND THE CURRENT LOW-LEVEL OF CONTACTS IS PROBABLY RELATED TO COMMUNIST PREPARATIONS FOR THIS. THERE WAS SOME PICKUP IN COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN HAU NGHIA, AND COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED TO HARASS ALONG Q.L. 20 TO DALAT.

E. AFTER A RECENT INCREASE IN FIGHTING DINH TUONG IN THE NORTHER DELTA WAS AGAIN RELATIVELY QUIET, THOUGH ACTIVITY IN ITS EASTERN DISTRICTS CONTINUED. THE THAP MUOI CANAL, THE FOCAL POINT OF KIEN PHONG PROVINCE'S RICE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, WAS THE SCENE OF SEVERAL ABFS. AN AGGRESSIVE RF COUNTERATTACK IN KIEN HOA IN THE CENTRAL DELTA WAS PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL, AND GAVE A HEALTHY BOOST TO THE MORALE OF THE PROVINCE TERRITORIAL FORCES. IN THE SOUTH, BOTH BA XUYEN AND BAC LIEU WERE QUIET, AND AN OUTPOST WAS RETAKEN IN AN XUYEN.

PART II - ICCS

IN THREE MEETINGS OF THE ICCSS AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE ORGANI-ZATION AND POWERS OF THE ICCS SECRETARIAT, THE FOUR DELEGATIONS BELIEVE THEY NARROWED DOWN THEIR DIFFERENCES CONSIDERABLY. THE MAIN ISSUE IS STILL THE DEGREE OF POWER THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE OVER THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. THE INDONESIANS DOUBT THAT A DRAFT CAN BE AGREED ON BEFORE NOVEMBER 30, WHEN THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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TURN OVER THE MONTHLY CHAIRMANSHIP TO THE IRANIANS.

PART III -- FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTERS

THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED INTO ITS TWENTY-THIRD WEEK.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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USDEL JEC PARIS
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AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

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PART IV - MR-1
1. SEUCRITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HQS BRIEFED 145 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS THIS WEEK, A DECREASE FROM LAST WEEK'S 155. FIGHTING HAS REMAINED AT A MODERATE LEVEL IN THUA THIEN (P), QUANG NAM (P), AND QUANG NGAI (P). QUANG TRI (P) HAS REMAINED QUIET. IN QUANG TIN (P) THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY. GVN CASUALTIES: 75 KIA; 360 WIA; 7 MIA. VC/NVA LOSSES WERE: 190 KIA; 4 CAPTURED; AND 1 RETURNEE. VNAF FLEW 12 COMBAT AIR SORTIES. THE FLOOD CONDITIONS HAVE SUBSIDED BUT INCLEMENT WEATHER HAS CONTINUED TO RESTRICT GROUND AND AIR OPERATIONS. ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES NOTED RECENTLY IS THE INCREASINGLY SUCCESSFUL SABOTAGE OF BRIDGES AND CULVERTS BEING CARRIED OUT BY VC/NVA SAPPERS AND FROGMEN. DURING THE PAST WEEK, OF 9 VC ATTEMPTS TO DAMAGE OR DESTROY CULVERTS, 8 WERE SUCCESSFUL.

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2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN QUANG TRI (P), IN THUA THIEN (P), MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE VICINITY OF LA SON BASE, MO TAU, AND BONG MOUNTAINS REMAINED AT A MODERATE LEVEL BUT THE FIGHTING WAS LESS INTENSE THAN IN RECENT WEEKS. ON NOV 21, VC/NVA SAPPERS DESTROYED A CULVERT ON HIGHWAY 1 AND A RAILWAY CULVERT ADJACENT TO IT NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. REPAIRS WERE COMPLETED ON NOV 22, BUT ONLY AFTER THE ARVN ENGINEER UNIT WAS SUBJECTED TO 6 SEPARATE MORTAR ATTACKS WHICH WOUNDED 5 GVN SOLDIERS, AND 6 TIME-DETONATED MINES HAD EXPLODED WITHOUT CAUSING FURTHER DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. ON NOV 24, IN THUA THIEN (P), A VC/NVA MINE WAS ACTIVATED WOUNDING TWO CIVILIANS.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THE SITUATION IN QUANG NAM (P) REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED WITH VC/NVA ACTIVITY AT A LOW LEVEL AFTER FAILURE OF THE 304TH NVA DIVISION TO DEFEAT AIRBORNE UNITS ON HILLS 52 AND 1062. THE VC/NVA ALSO TRIED TO COUNTER GVN OPERATIONS IN NORTHWESTERN DIEN BAN (D)
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AND EASTERN DUY XUYEN (D). ON NOV 24, A PASSENGER BUS MOVING FROM DA NANG TO DAI LOC IN QUANG NAM (P), ACTIVATED A VC/NVA MINE KILLING 4 CIVILIANS, WOUNDING 31 OTHERS INCLUDING 4 SOLDIERS, AND CAUSING 90 PERCENT DAMAGE TO THE BUS. ON NOV 22, VC FIRED 25 ROUNDS OF 61MM MORTAR INTO A POPULATED AREA EAST OF DAI LOC, QUANG NAM (P) RESULTING IN 3 CIVILIANS WOUNDED. ON NOV 21, THE VC BLEW UP A GUARDED CULVERT ON HIGHWAY 1, EAST OF DUY XUYEN, QUANG NAM (P), CAUSING 60 PERCENT DAMAGE AND TEMPORARILY INTERRUPTING TRAFFIC. ON NOV 21, MEMBERS OF A REGIONAL FORCE BATTALION GUARDING THE BA REN BRIDGE EAST OF DUY XUYEN, QUANG NAM (P), DISCOVERED AND SHOT A VC SAPPER AND FOUND 120 KILOS OF EXPLOSIVES WITH THE BODY. ON NOV 20, VC/NVA BLEW UP A CULVERT ON HIGHWAY 1, SOUTHEAST OF THANH BINH, QUANG NAM (P) RESULTING IN 60 PERCENT DAMAGE AND A TEMPORARY INTERRUPTION OF TRAFFIC.

QUANG TIN (P) HAS REMAINED QUIET WITH ONLY A FEW SCATTERED ABF'S AND GROUND CONTACTS.

IN QUANG NGAI (P) THERE WERE NO GROUND ATTACKS; HOWEVER, GVN UNITS HAD MANY MINOR CONTACTS WITH VC/NVA FORCES IN WESTERN BINH SON (D), WESTERN TU NGHIA (D), AND EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MO DUC (D). ON NOV 22, VC/NVA BLEW UP AN UNGUARDED CULVERT ON HIGHWAY 1, NORTHWEST OF SA HUYNH, QUANG NGAI (P), CAUSING 100 PERCENT DAMAGE AND INTERRUPTING TRAFFIC FOR 15 HOURS WHILE REPAIRS WERE COMPLETED. ON NOV 23, VC/NVA PLACED EXPLOSIVES ON A RAFT, FIRED 20 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR AND LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON THE POPULAR FORCES PLT GUARDING THE TRA CAU BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 1, NORTHWEST OF DUC PHO, QUANG NGAI (P). RESULTS: 2 GVN SOLDIERS KIA, 2 SMALL ARMS LOST, TEN METERS OF BRIDGE DESTROYED AND TRAFFIC WAS INTERRUPTED FOR 39 HOURS BEFORE REPAIR WAS COMPLETED. ON NOV 22, VC FIRED 10

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ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR INTO A POPULATED AREA NORTHWEST OF QUANG
NGAI AIRFIELD KILLING ONE CIVILIAN AND WOUNDING ANOTHER CIVILIAN.
ON NOV 20, VC BLEW UP A GUARDED CULVERT ON HIGHWAY 1,
NORTH OF BINH LIEN, QUANG NGAI (P), CAUSING 30 PERCENT DAMAGE AND
A TEMPORARY INTERRUPTION OF TRAFFIC. ON NOV 18, VC/NVA BLEW
UP A GUARDED CULVERT ON HIGHWAY 1, SOUTHEAST OF MO DUC, QUANG NGAI
(P), CAUSING 40 PERCENT DAMAGE AND INTERRUPTION OF TRAFFIC. ON
NOV 18, VC/NVA FIRED SMALL ARMS INTO A POPULATED AREA NORTHWEST OF
QUANG NGAI AIRFIELD WOUNDING ONE CIVILIAN. ON NOV 19, VC/NVA ATTEMPTED

UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ASSASSINATE THE AN DAO (H) DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF
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AT A POINT 2.5 KM EAST OF SON THANH (D), QUANG NGAI (P).

4. ICCS: THERE WERE NO OBSERVATIONS MADE IN ICCS REGION I.
THE IRANIANS AND INDONESIANS IN REGION II, HOWEVER, CONDUCTED
FIVE OBSERVATIONS. FOUR VISITS WERE MADE TO THE SITES OF BRIDGE
OR CULVERT SABOTAGE ATTEMPTS, TWO EACH IN QUANG NAM AND QUANG
NGAI PROVINCES, RESPECTIVELY. THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS FROM
THE HOI AN TEAM SITE ALSO VISITED A DA NANG HOSPITAL TO INTERVIEW
SURVIVORS OF THE NOV 24 MINING OF A COMMERCIAL BUS IN QUANG
NAM PROVINCE.

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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PART V - MR-2
1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY ABATED SOMEWHAT
THIS WEEK. IN BINH DINH WHERE THE MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS WERE
REPORTED, COMMUNIST FORCES MAINTAINED THEIR PRESSURE ON THE
ARVN 41ST REGT WEST OF BONG SON AND CONTINUED THEIR EFFORTS TO
INTERDICT LOC'S IN THE VICINITY OF BINH KHE DISTRICT TOWN. TUYEN
DUC SECTOR FORCES LAUNCHED ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OPERATION AGAINST
VC PROVINCIAL HQS ELEMENTS WEST OF ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN. VC
SAPPER ATTACKS DESTROYED FIVE ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION TOWERS
IN NINH THUAN IN AN APPARENT FOLLOW-ON TO LAST WEEK'S ASSAULT
ON THE PENSTOCKS LEADING TO THE DA NHIM HYDROELECTRIC PLANT.
IN AN EFFORT TO BOLSTER THE DEFENSES OF KONTUM PROVINCE UNDER
A FULLY INTEGRATED RANGER COMMAND, TWO RANGER
GROUPS WERE MOVED INTO KONTUM, WHILE THE 40TH ARVN REGT
WAS REDEPLOYED FROM KONTUM TO ITS PARENT DIVISION IN
BINH DINH. MR-2 HQS REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS LOST
278 KIA AND 69 WEAPONS COMPARED WITH 275 KIA AND 95
WEAPONS LAST WEEK. GVN LOSSES WERE 35 KIA, 106 WIA, AND
26 WEAPONS AS OPPOSED TO 58 KIA, 256 WIA, AND 61 WEAPONS
THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE COMMUNISTS INITIATED 57 INCIDENTS,
44 OF WHICH OCCURRED IN BINH EINH. ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES
INCREASED TO 11,410 ROUNDS, UP FROM 10,890. THE USE OF
TAC AIR AND AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE ASSETS DECREASED TO 52
AND 125 SORTIES, DOWN FROM 161 AND 145 FLOWN THE PRECEDING
WEEK. HELICOPTER SORTIES FLOWN REMAINED LEVEL AT 768.

2. BINH DINH: THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING DIMINISHED OVERALL THIS
WEEK, ALTHOUGH WESTERN HOAI NHON AND BINH KHE DISTRICT ALONG
QL-19 WERE THE SCENE OF SHARP ENGAGEMENTS. IN TWO SEPARATE

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CONTACTS WEST OF BONG SON CITY, THE ARVN 41ST REGT KILLED 49 NVA. VC PROVINCIAL FORCES CONTINUED TTTIR UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO INTERDICT QL-19 IN THE BINH KHE AREA. ELSEWHERE, GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND POPULATION CENTERS IN TAM QUAN, PHU MY, AND HOAI NHON WERE SHELLED SUSTAINING LIGHT CASUALTIES. SECTOR OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE COMMUNISTS WILL ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THE 41ST REGT NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE AN LAO; INTERDICT QL-1 IN THE NORTH AND QL-19 IN BINH KHE; AND CONDUCT SMALL-SCALE ATTACKS
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AND CIVILIAN PROSELYTIZING IN PHU MY DISTRICT.

3. KONTUM/PLEIKU: MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED ITS RECENT SLOW PACE THIS WEEK WITH ONLY SIX CONTACTS REPORTED CAUSING 11 NVA KIA AND LIGHT CASUALTIES TO GOVERNMENT FORCES. MR-2 HQS REPORTS THAT THE 24TH NVA REGT, WHICH WAS OPERATING 14 KM NORTH OF KONTUM CITY, HAS TAKEN OVER THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY THE 95B REGT. THE LATTER UNIT REPORTEDLY MOVED INTO SOUTH-EASTERN KONTUM TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR HIGHWAY 715. THE 28TH NVA REGT REDEPLOYED FROM NE OF KONTUM CITY TO A POSITION APPROXI-MATELY 25 KM TO THE WEST. CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAN TO UNIFY THE DEFENSE OF KONTUM, IMPROVE COMMAND COORDINATION, AND FACILITATE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, THE RF UNITS IN KONTUM WILL SOON BE REORGANIZED INTO THE 928TH RF GROUP. ADDITIONALLY, THE TURNOVER OF THE DEFENSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR KONTUM TO A RANGER COMMAND CONTINUED WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE 4TH RANGER GROUP TO KONTUM FROM BINH DINH AND THE RETURN OF THE 40TH REGT TO ITS PARENT 22ND DIV HQS IN BINH DINH. THE 4TH WILL BE JOINED SHORTLY BY THE 6TH RANGERS STILL IN BINH DINH. THE 24TH RANGER GROUP ALSO REPORTEDLY MOVED TO KONTUM. PLEIKU REMAINED CALM; AN INCREASE IN THE MOVEMENT OF NVA SUPPLIES FROM THE WEST ACROSS QL-14 AT MY THACH AND INTO BASE AREA 202 WAS THE ONLY NOTABLE ACTIVITY.

4. DARLAC: ON NOV 20, A PF PLATOON OUTPOST SITUATED AT AN LAC ON THE TUYEN DUC/DARLAC BORDER RECEIVED 100 ROUNDS OF 82-MM MORTAR FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ASSAULT. ONE SOLDIER WAS REPORTED KILLED, TWO OTHERS WERE WOUNDED AND THREE WERE MISSING. NEIGH-BORING PHI DI JA HAMLET WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY ENTERED BY THE ATTACKING FORCE WHO KILLED TWO CIVILIANS AND DESTROYED THE VILLAGE HQS. ALSO ON NOV 20 THE 72ND RANGER BATTALION REPORT-EDLY KILLED 14 COMMUNISTS IN A CONTACT 14 KM SW OF BAN ME THUOT. RVNAF PUT IN 34 AIR STRIKES IN DARLACTHIS WEEK.

5. TUYEN DUC: CONTINUING THEIR OFFENSIVE AGAINST SUSPECTED VC PROVINCIAL HQS POSITIONS WEST OF ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN, TUYEN DUC SECTOR FORCES KILLED 22 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS IN A 5-DAY OPE
ATION. CAPTURED VC DOCUMENTS CONFIRM THE FORMA-
TION IN JULY 1974 OF A NEW VC COMPANY DESIGNATED THE 820TH LOCAL FORCE COMPANY. ON NOVEMBER 23RD, THE VC ASSASSINATED THE HAMLET CHIEF OF XUON SON HAMLET, DON DUONG DISTRICT.
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6. OTHER: AN ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP THE XOM LUA BRIDGE ON QL-1 AT CHO LAU IN BINH THUAN WAS DISCOVERED AND PREVENTED BY 2 PF PLATOONS: 60 KILOS OF EXPLOSIVES WERE RECOVERED. ALSO IN BINH THUAN, THE VC CONFISCATED 3,700 KGS OF RICE IN THREE INCIDENTS. THE PROVINCE CHIEF EXPECTS AN UPTURN IN COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN EARLY DECEMBER AND FEARS THAT LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS MAY HAMPER HIS RESPONSE TO THEM. IN NINH THUAN ON NOV 22/23, FIVE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE TOWERS ALONG QL-1 IN BUU SON AND DU LONG DISTRICTS WERE DESTROYED BY VC SAPPERS.

7. ICCS: CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS, THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS DID NOT MAKE AN "OBSERVATION" OF THE SITES OF THE VC SAPPER ATTACKS ON 5 ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION TOWERS IN NINH THUAN. THEY HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED TO DO SO SINCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24. THE IRANIANS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT RECEIVED A CLEARANCE FROM THEIR SAIGON HEADQUARTERS TO UNDERTAKE THE OBSERVATION, AND THE INDONESIANS WILL NOT GO WITHOUT THE IRANIANS.

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CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
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PART VI - MR-3
1. APART FROM GVN RECOVERY OF RACH BAP OUTPOST AGAINST LIGHT OPPOSITION AND THE CLEARING OF THE IRON TRIANGLE SOUTH TO PHU THU, MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-3 WAS MOSTLY LIMITED TO SMALL UNIT CLASHES AND MINOR SHELLINGS. THE ALMOST COMPLETE ABSENCE OF CONTACT WITH NVA MAIN FORCE UNITS STRONGLY SUGGESTS A CONTINUED REORGANIZATION OF NVA UNITS AND DEPLOYMENTS, OR THE BEGINNING OF A STAND-DOWN BEFORE MAJOR NVA OFFENSIVE ACTION NOW EXPECTED IN DECEMBER.

2. ALTHOUGH ACTIVITY INCREASED IN BINH DUONG, THE OVERALL TOTAL OF MILITARY INCIDENTS FOR THE REGION DROPPED FROM 191 LAST WEEK TO 171 THIS PERIOD. MR-3 HQS RECORDED 45 GROUND CONTACTS (64 LAST WEEK), 73 ATTACKS BY FIRE (52 LAST WEEK), AND TWO COMBINED GROUND AND ABFS. MINING INCIDENTS DECREASED TO 15 FROM 31 LAST WEEK AND THERE WERE 36 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS. BINH DUONG WAS AGAIN THE HIGHEST WITH 78 INCIDENTS (68 LAST WEEK), WHILE HAU NGHIA HAD 28 AND BINH LONG 15.

3. COMMUNIST ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRINGS WERE REPORTED AS 870 ROUNDS COMPARED WITH 938 FOR THE LAST PERIOD. ARVN MORE THAN DOUBLED THEIR ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES TO 18,542 ROUNDS COMPARED WITH 8,943 THE WEEK BEFORE. THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY IN THE IRON TRIANGLE. VNAF FLEW 161 FIXED-WING SORTIES AND 170 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP MISSIONS.

4. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 35 KIA, 206 WIA, AND FOUR MIA WHILE NVA/VC LOSSES WERE GIVEN AS 75 KIA, FIVE CIA AND ONE RALLIER. ALSO, VNAF REPORTED 167 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR.

5. THE BEN CAT AREA OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE WAS THE FOCAL POINT OF MILITARY ACTIVITY THIS WEEK IN MR-3. ON NOVEMBER 20 GVN FORCES RE-OCCUPIED RACH BAP OUTPOST AGAINST LIGHT OPPOSITION JUST SIX MONTHS FROM THE DAY IT HAD FALLEN. WITH THIS VICTORY

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ARVN FORCES COMPLETED THE RECOVERY OF ALL TERRITORY LOST IN THE IRON TRIANGLE AREA OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE DURING THE COMMUNIST SUMMER/AUTUMN OFFENSIVE. MEANWHILE, REGIMENTAL SIZE UNITS FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH THE 18TH AND 25TH ARVN DIV'S CONTINUED THEIR MISSION OF CLEARING THE AREA IN THE IRON TRIANGLE NORTH OF PHU THU OUTPOST AND IN THE AREA NORTHWEST OF PHU HOA DONG VILLAGE, ALSO AGAINST LIGHT OPPOSITION. CASUALTIES FROM THE OPERATIONS ARE REPORTED AS 16 KILLED AND 101 WOUNDED FOR THE ARVN WHILE NVA LOSSES ARE 32 KILLED AND A MEMBER OF BATTALION 4, 272ND REGT (9TH NVA DIV) CAPTURED. IN ADDITION TWO NVA/VC TRAINING AREAS AND THE BEN CAT VC DISTRICT HQ BASE CAMP WERE DESTROYED.

6. SUB-SUBSECTOR OFFICES CONTINUED TO BE A TARGET FOR COMMUNIST SAPPER ATTACKS THROUGHOUT MR3. ON NOV 20 IN GIA DINH PROVINCE SIX KMS WEST OF TAN SON NHUT AIRBASE THEY STRUCK AT THE HUNG HOA SUBSECTOR KILLING FOUR AND WOUNDING TWO. IN LONG AN PROVINCE ON NOV 19 A SUB-SUBSECTOR 15 KMS SOUTHEAST OF SAIGON SUFFERED TWO KILLED, FIVE WOUNDED AND ONE MISSING IN A SAPPER ATTACK. IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE A SUB-SUBSECTOR THREE KMS NORTHWEST OF LONG THANH DISTRICT TOWN HAD TWO CIVILIANS KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED (FOUR CIVILIANS) IN AN ATTACK.

7. ENEMY ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO ESCALATE IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE. DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF NOV 20 A COMPANY SIZE SAPPER UNIT PENETRATED DUC HOA SUB-SUBSECTOR KILLING TWO AND WOUNDING 17 DEFENDERS. THE PERIOD NOV 20 - 23 SAW RACH NHUM POST, FIVE KMS SOUTHEAST OF DUC HUE RECEIVE NINE ABF'S TOTALING 140 ROUNDS WHICH RESULTED IN THREE POPULAR FORCE SOLDIERS KILLED. A REGIONAL FORCE UNIT BEING TRASNPORTED ON THE VAM CO DONG RIVER BY A VIETNAMESE NAVY BOAT SEVEN KMS SOUTHEAST OF DUC HUE, WAS ATTACKED BY AN NVA/VC PLATOON ON NOV 23 WITH LOSSES OF SIX WOUNDED. TRUNG LAP BASE IN THE NORTH WAS THE TARGET OF 70 MORTAR ROUNDS ON NOV 22 AND TWO DAYS LATER GROUND CONTACT WAS MADE WITH AN NVA/VC COMPANY 500 METERS WEST OF THE BASE.

8. THIS WEEK 260 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND ROCKET AND RIFLE GRENADE FIRE WERE DIRECTED AT BINH LONG PROVINCE CAPITAL WITH NEGLIGIBLE CASUALTIES REPORTED. ON NOV 19 A VNAF HELICOPTER ON A SUPPORT MISSION RECEIVED MACHINE GUN FIRE 11 KMS SOUTH OF AN LOC BUT REPORTED NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES.

9. COMMUNIST FORCES OPERATING ALONG QL 20 (ROAD TO DALAT) IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE REMAINED ACTIVE THIS WEEK. ON NOV 19 COMMUNISTS SET UP A ROUTE 20 ROADBLOCK 14 KMS NORTHEAST OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DINH QUAN DISTRICT TOWN AND THEN AMBUSHED A TERRITORIAL FORCE SENT TO REOPEN THE ROAD. ONE GVN SOLDIER WAS WOUNDED, BUT THE

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ROAD WAS REOPENED TO TRAFFIC BY THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY. THREE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED NOV 21 WHEN MORTAR ROUNDS IMPACTED 12 KMS NORTHEAST OF DINH QUAN ALONG QL 20.

10. TAY NINH AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES WERE BOTH THE SCENE OF A MAJOR GROUND CONTACT. ON NOV 20 IN THE VICINITY OF LUU BUU LAM OUTPOST IN TAY NINH AN ARVN UNIT WAS ENGAGED BY AN NVA/VC FORCE AND SUFFERED TWO KILLED, TEN WOUNDED AND TWO MISSING WHILE NVA/VC LOSSES WERE UNREPORTED. IN PHUOC TUY, ON NOV 24, THREE KMS NORTHEAST OF DAT DO DISTRICT A TERRITORIAL UNIT MADE CONTACT WITH A COMMUNIST FORCE ESTIMATED AS TWO COMPANIES. CASUALTIES WERE PUT AS SIX KILLED FOR THE NVA AND FIVE TERRITORIALS WOUNDED.

11. ICCS: THREE OBSERVATIONS OCCURRED IN ICCS REGION V DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD. BOTH THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN TEAMS FROM TAN AN ON NOVEMBER 19 VISITED THE SCENE OF A COMMUNIST ATTACK IN LONG AN PROVINCE WHICH HAD OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE INDONESIAN TEAM BASED AT XUAN LOC CONDUCTED TWO OBSERVATIONS THIS WEEK, BOTH IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE. ON NOV 19 THIS TEAM VISITED THE SITE OF A VC SHELLING AND GROUND ASSAULT AND ON NOV 22 VISITED THE SITE OF A VC SHELLING.

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 /083 W
---------- 000883
R 270910Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 624
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

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CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VII - MR-4
1. MILITARY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY DELTA-WIDE DROPPED OFF THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AS THE MID-NOVEMBER HIGHPOINT CAME TO AN END. FOLLOWING THE PATTERN OF RECENT MONTHS, MOST OF THE FLUCTUATION OCCURRED IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN DELTA, WITH THE NORTHERN PROVINCES EXPERIENCING A MORE GRADUAL DECLINE. IN SEVERAL PROVINCES, GVN FORCES WERE ABLE TO REPAIR SOME OF THE DAMAGE OF THE LATEST HIGHPOINT BY RECAPTUING OB'S AND VILLAGE OFFICES. RVNAF SOURCES CONTINUE TO BELIEVE MILITARY ACTIVITY OF NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL BE DICTATED BY BOTH SIDES' EFFORTS TO CONTROL APPROACHING RICE HARVEST. MR4 REPORTS 293 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (422 LAST WEEK) CONSISTING OF 43 GROUND ATTACKS (69), 170 ABF'S (228), 70 HARASSMENTS (102), 11 SABOTAGE (13), AND 5 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (9). GVN LOSSES ARE REPORTED AS 156 KIA (159), 578 WIA (664), 43 MIA (39), AND 6 CREW-SERVED (5) AND 167 INDIVIDUAL (175) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 599 VC/NVA KILLED (552), 74 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (66), AND 10 CREW-SERVED (15) AND 246 INDIVIDUAL (171) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: DINH TUONG PROVINCE WAS QUIETER, BUT ACTIVITY IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS CONTINUED. AN OB IN NORTHERN CHAU THANH (D) WAS ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE, WHILE ANOTHER IN CHO GAO (D) WAS OVERRUN WITH 12 PF MIA. GIAO DUC DISTRICT TOWN WAS MORTARED FOR THE THIRD TIME IN THREE WEEKS, AND EIGHT VILLAGE HQ WERE ALSO HIT BY MORTAR FIRE. INCIDENTS ON HIGHWAY 4 INCLUDED: A MORTAR ROUND IMPACTING IN FRONT OF A TRUCK AND THREE-WHEELED BUS IN EASTERN GIAO DUC (D) AT 1600 HOURS KILLING 4 AND WOUNDING 19; THE BLOWING UP OF A CULVERT IN EASTERN GIAO DUC AT 1050 HOURS WHICH KILLED ONE ARVN AND WOUNDED TWO; A SNIPING AT 1310 HOURS IN WESTERN CAI BE (D) WHICH KILLED ONE SOLDIER; A B40 FIRING AGAINST AN ARVN TRUCK AT 0800 HOURS IN EASTERN GIAO

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DUC (D); AND AN M79 FIRING AT AN ARMORED CAR AT 1030 HOURS IN
CENTRAL CAI LAY (D). REPAIRS TO ROUTE 30 IN GIAO DUC (D) ARE
NEARING COMPLETION, AND SECTOR REPORTS VC ARE PLANNING RENEWED
SABOTAGE EFFORTS AGAINST TWO BRIDGES IN THANH HCNG (V). IN KIEN
PHONG PROVINCE, 6 RF AND PF OB'S ALONG THE THAP MUOI CANAL IN
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CAO LANH AND MY AN DISTRICTS CAME UNDER GROUND ATTACK AND TWO,
BOTH NORTHEAST OF THE PROVINCE CAPITAL, WERE OVERRUN BUT SINCE
RETAKEN. BOTH WERE ALSO OVERRUN AND RETAKEN LAST WEEK. MOST
ABF'S IN THE PROVINCE WERE ALSO DIRECTED AGAINST OB'S ALONG
THE CANAL, WHICH IS THE FOCAL POINT OF KIEN PHONG'S RICE
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. SECTOR BELIEVES VC/NVA
ARE TRYING TO MOVE INTO POSITION TO CONTROL FORTHCOMING RICE
HARVEST. IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, ONE OF THE OB'S LOST LAST
WEEK ALONG THE CUNG CANAL WAS RETAKEN BY A 15TH REGIMENT BATTALION.
BODIES OF 11 GVN DEFENDERS AND SEVERAL WEAPONS WERE STILL IN
THE OB. ELEMENTS OF TWO 15TH REGIMENT BATTALIONS CONTINUE TO
OPERATE IN WESTERN KIEN BINH(D) WHILE THE REST OF THE PROVINCE
REMAINS QUIET.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, A COMPANY-SIZED
VC/NVA FORCE ATTACKED THOI THUAN VILLAGE HQ, BINH DAI (D),
KILLING THE VILLAGE CHIEF AND TWO PF AND WOUNDING 16 OTHERS.
401ST RF BATTALION CONDUCTED PURSUIT OPERATION AND KILLED 23VC
WITH NO GVN CASUALTIES IN CONTACT TWO DAYS AFTER THE ATTACK.
IN ANOTHER CONTACT INVOLVING SAME TWO UNITS ON FOLLOWING DAY,
10 MORE VC WERE KILLED WITH NO GVN CASUALTIES. IMPRESSIVE
RESULTS OF AGGRESSIVE RF OPERATION HAVE REPORTEDLY BOOSTED
MORALE OF KIEN HOA TERRITORIAL FORCES. ON DIFFERENT SUBJECT,
SECTOR S-2 REPORTS EVIDENCE THAT VC MR-2 INTENDS TO MOVE
DONG THAP I REGIMENT FROM DINH TUONG TO KIEN HOA, WHERE IT
LAST OPERATED FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1972. VINH BINH PROVINCE
CONTINUED ACTIVE WITH THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT THE ABANDONMENT
OF THONG HOA (V) HEADQUARTERS, CAU KE (D) UNDER HEAVY VC/NVA
PRESSURE. LONG VINH (V), LONG TOAN (D) WAS RECAPTURED AFTER
SFMONG OVERRUN LAST WEEK. ACTIVITY IN NEIGHBORING VINH LONG
PROVINCE DECREASED, WITH SMALL CONTACTS, HARASSMENTS, AND
BOOBY TRAPS ACCOUNTING FOR MOST INCIDENTS. 7TH ARVN DIVISION
UNITS AND PARTNVF 6TH ARMORED SQUABION REMAIN IN PROVINCE.
NORMALLY PEACEFUL SA DEC PROVINCE REPORTS TWO SIGNIFICANT
INCIDENTS.

FIRST, A MORTARING (10 ROUNDS 61MM MORTAR) OF
AN RF COMPANY POSITION IN DUC TONO(D) WHICH KILLED 3 AND WOUNRED
ONE. THE VILLAGE WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED IS THE SITE OF A
MAJOR QUANG TIN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT. THE OTHER
INCIDENT WAS A RARE ROCKETING OF SA DEC CITY (ONE 122MM ROCKET)
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WHICH WOUNDED ONE PF. IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, AN RF BATTALION CONTACTED TWO VC PLATOONS IN NORTHERN PHUNG HIEP (D) AND KILLED 5. THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AT NOON ABOUT 700 METERS FROM HIGHWAY 4. ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE CONTINUED TO DECLINE, BUT AN OB IN SOUTHERN HIEU LE (D) RECEIVED OVER 60 MORTAR ROUNDS DURING THE WEEK AND CONTACT WITH THE OB WAS LOST LATE IN THE PERIOD. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, ACTIVITY CONSISTED OF SMALL-UNIT CONTACTS EXCEPT THE MORTARING OF KIEN AN DISTRICT TOWN (10 ROUNDS 82MM) WHICH KILLED A POLICEMAN.

(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: BA XUYEN PROVINCE WAS QUIET WITH MOST ACTIVITY CONSISTING OF ABF'S AND HARASSMENTS IN NGA NAM AND THUAN HOA DISTRICTS. FOCUS OF FIGHTING SHIFTED AWAY FROM HOA TU (D) FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL WEEKS. BAC LIEU PROVINCE WAS ALSO QUIET, BUT AN RF COMPANY WAS ATTACKED IN AN UNUSUAL INCIDENT. THE VC BAC LIEU I BATTALION LURED THE COMPANY OUT OF THEIR OB BY A FALSE
MESSAGE TRANSMITTED ON THE OB/DISTRICT HQ RADIO FREQUENCY. VC THEN ATTACKED THE COMPANY AND, AFTER A 15-MINUTE FIGHT, INFLICTED 6 RF KIA (INCLUDING COMPANY COMMANDER) AND 15 MIA. IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, AN OUTPOST 6KM SOUTH OF CAM MAU, ABANDONED LAST WEEK, WAS RETAKEN. UNITS OF VNN 72ND AND 73RD RIVER ASSAULT GROUPS WERE ASSIGNED TO PATROL ONG DOC RIVER AND ESCORT PF TO RETAKE ANOTHER OB ALSO LOST LAST WEEK. THE BOATS WERE ROCKETED AND MINED ENROUTE, WITH TWO VNN KIA, AND PF TROOPS HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE OB. CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE WAS EXCEPTIONALLY QUIET.

2. ICCS AFFAIRS: ICCS REGION VI RECEIVED 19 COMPLAINTS OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING THE WEEK. LATEST "OBSERVATION" BY IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN TEAMS WAS ON NOVEMBER 18 AT BEN TRANH DISTRICT TOWN, DINH TUONG PROVINCE, FOLLOWING MORTARINGS THERE ON NOV 16 AND 17. REGION VII RECEIVED TEN COMPLAINTS, AND "OBSERVATIONS" WERE MADE AT THE SITE OF A PLASTIQUE EXPLOSION IN A POLICE STATION IN VINH LONG PROVINCE (INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS), AND AT THE SITE OF A MORTARING IN AN AREA POPULATED BY NORTHERN CATHOLIC REFUGEES IN QUAN LONG (D), AN XUYEN PROVINCE (INDONESIANS ONLY).
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
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JAKARTA
NHA TRANG
PARIS

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CG FMFPAC
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CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
FPJMT SAIGON
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